



STEM Careers

Zookeeper

Job Description: Oversee and care for a wide variety of animals, including land mammals, reptiles, birds, amphibians, and sometimes marine animals.

What does a zookeeper do?

- Prepare food for animals.
- Feed and water animals according to schedules and feeding instructions.
- Report changes, health problems, or unusual behaviors in the animals in your care.
- Respond to questions from guests, and provide information about animals, such as behavior, habitat, breeding habits, or facility activity.
- Clean, organize, and disinfect animals quarters such as pens, stables, cages, and yards, and animal equipment such as saddles and bridles.
- Collect and record animal information such as weight, size, physical condition, treatments received, medications given, and food intake.
- Exercise animals to maintain their physical and mental health.
- Provide treatment to sick or injured animals, or contact veterinarians to secure treatment.

Your Interests:

- Do you enjoy animals?
- Do you like working outside?
- Do you like taking care of pets?
- Do you communicate well with others?

Outlook:

Average Salary - \$9.40 hourly, \$19,550 annual

Projected Job Openings - 73,600 over the next 10 years for nonfarm animal caretaker jobs.

Education/Program of Study:

- Minimum two-year associate degree in animal science, wildlife management, zoology, or conservation biology
- Larger zoos might require a bachelor's degree

Sources:

O*NET Online

<http://www.bls.gov/k12/nature01.htm>